

As a doctoral candidate in media studies at Northwestern University's School of Speech, I am very concerned about the current consideration to repeal regulations on cross-media ownership in geographical areas. In order for a democracy to sustain an active, engaged, and informed citizenry, it is essential that a range of sources of and perspectives in/on the media be available to the public. As the airwaves are defined as "public" property, I find it disturbing that licenses are granted primarily to large corporations whose principle mandates are to maximize profits, an aim which often conflicts with the possibility of offering any significant variety or range of media content. Having a larger number of media outlets means little if the number, and perhaps more importantly, FORM of production and distribution institutions are so similar in kind. I STRONGLY urge the FCC to reject further considerations of media deregulation, as it has very little to do with a free and open field of public discourse, and very much to do with the further concentration and homogenization of sources of public information and culture.